

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 107

By Tracy

A RESOLUTION to request the Department of Education and the State Board of Education to study and report on the best practices of other states relative to funding of programs focused on career preparation and postsecondary opportunities.

WHEREAS, on December 10, 2015, President Barack Obama signed the "Every Student Succeeds Act" (ESSA) into law following overwhelming bipartisan support from the House of Representatives and Senate; and

WHEREAS, United States Senator Lamar Alexander said the following about ESSA upon it becoming law, "It is the single biggest step toward local control of public schools in twenty-five years."; and

WHEREAS, ESSA provides a great deal of flexibility and autonomy to states in the development of accountability systems for public schools; and

WHEREAS, ESSA enables the State of Tennessee to reexamine its priorities within its accountability system to ensure that the appropriate programs are emphasized; and

WHEREAS, such an accountability system should include recognition of career preparation and postsecondary opportunities including, but not limited to, career and technical education, industry certifications, internship programs and Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, dual enrollment, and dual credit coursework; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Department of Education recognizes the importance of these programs and should be commended for their efforts to include such items in the State's new accountability system; and

WHEREAS, with a renewed focus on career preparation and postsecondary opportunities, it is imperative that local education agencies have the resources needed to fully and appropriately provide such programs; and

WHEREAS, while Tennessee has several important grant and scholarship programs that assist students seeking early postsecondary credit and industry certifications, those resources do not meet the needs of all students capable of pursuing such opportunities; and

WHEREAS, there are states that provide funding through their education funding formulas to local education agencies based on the number of students earning early postsecondary credit and industry certifications; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that the Department of Education and the State Board of Education are hereby requested to study and report on the best practices of states around the country in funding programs focused on career preparation and providing postsecondary opportunities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of Education and the State Board of Education present the findings of their study to the Senate Education Committee, the House Education Administration and Planning Committee, and the House Education Instruction and Programs Committee no later than March 1, 2018.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the commissioner of the Department of Education and the executive director of the State Board of Education.